

CHRIST FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL

702 Howard Street
Wheaton, IL 60187

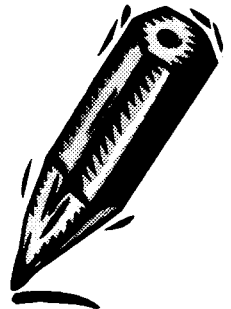
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March 2001

Volume 7 #1

Test Your Knowledge of Fresnillo and CFCI

- ___ 1. Many in Mexico believe that religion is for women and children
- ___ 2. Fresnillo and CFCI are about an hour outside of Mexico City
- ___ 3. Iglesia del Gran Pastor [can you translate the name?] worships in the bodega in Patria y Libertad every Sunday morning.
- ___ 4. CFCI mostly takes cares of orphans.
- ___ 5. Given all of the programs, it is reasonable to expect CFCI workers to raise \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year.
- ___ 6. There are no national workers involved in the CFCI ministry.

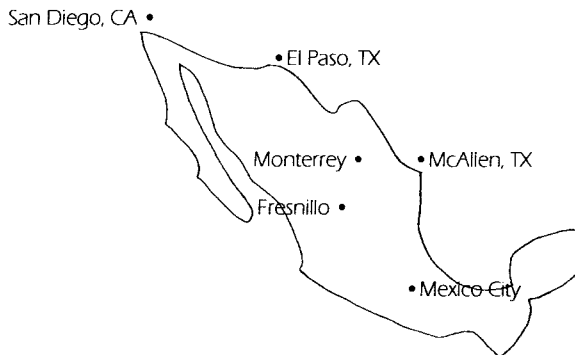


1. True. This myth is believed by many men in Mexico but it is commonly believed world wide since women and children are more likely to be in attendance on a regular basis. It is reinforced by most mission agencies around the world because they have a two-to-one or three-to-one ration of women to men. However this reality saddens the Father heart of God who wants to use men, as well as women, to be strong disciples and leaders who can model His love and care to the world. We need to be praying that more men will decide to forsake the standards set by society and spend their lives in Christian service. *Please pray that God will raise up more missionaries for CFCI but especially men and specifically another pastor.*



Kids at play in club program.

2. False. In reality we are about nine hours north and a bit west of Mexico. Fresnillo is located in the center of the county in a mile high desert region. Our State is called Zacatecas and the capitol city is also named Zacatecas and is considered to be one of the "colonial gems" of Mexico. It is over 450 years old and architecture in its core area resembles that of colonia Europe. If you are "geographically challenged" you can imagine Mexico without the Yucatan Peninsula and then look in the center of the country.



4. False. We do not care for any orphans. All of our children live with parents or relatives but many of these families do struggle emotionally, spiritually or physically. CFCI tries to work in as wholistic a fashion as possible and thus we offer a Kids Bible Club program for children aged two to ten; youth groups for those between the ages of eleven and eighteen, a Saturday lunch program for 350 kids, small groups of various sorts for adults, many music classes, specialized school tutoring, a clothing give-away, help with school and medical costs as well as counseling and prayer for spiritual healing and other special needs.

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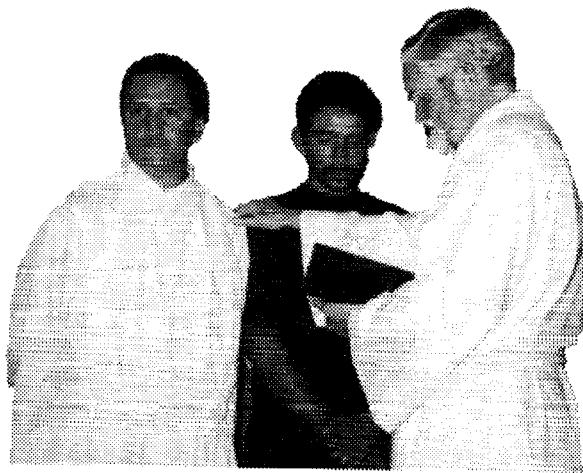
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3. True. It is pastored by The Reverend Douglas Jones. Christine Yoder - and sometimes Mary Dorsett - serve as deaconesses and assume responsibilities for the women's ministry, preparation of the sanctuary and meeting other needs that enable Doug to fulfill his responsibilities as shepherd to the growing flock. A congregation of about one hundred people can be found worshipping God and celebrating Holy Communion each Sunday morning at 11 a.m. Amazingly around 20- 25% of our congregation are men. Having a good representation makes it easier for new men to come and "join their friends" *Please pray that more and more men will become active disciples in our church.*

5. False. New missionaries to CFCI must commit to a fourteen-month stay. Since most of what we do is based on friendships with the families of Fresnillo it is impossible for short term workers to accomplish the goals. Furthermore, many of our friends in Fresnillo struggle with abandonment issues and thus rapid turn-over on our part would further exacerbate these wounds. Even so, new missionaries and those not in the long term track are only raising \$9800 each. This amount covers the cost of airfare to and from Zacatecas, major medical insurance, all living expenses and \$100 per month of unrestricted spending money. Long term workers raise up to \$24,000 per family but they receive all of the above benefits and a larger salary, as well as pension and furlough investment.

Our costs are kept low because CFCI has only one very part-time paid worker [who contributes many free hours as well]. Our single missionaries live in community housing and we do all we can to economize so that each dollar is well spent in the eyes of the One who provides for our needs. Unlike traditional mission agencies, the expenses for things such as the fifteen passenger vans we drive, food for the Saturday feeding program, curriculum, pens, paper, glue glitter, furniture for community housing and other "general" needs are raised by the General Fund. We conduct no fund raisers but we do regularly petition God to move the hearts of those whom He would involve as our partners.

Flavio, left, and David, center, commissioned as national workers by Pastor Lyle.



6. False. National workers are involved as both volunteers and paid staff in many areas of our ministry. Each Saturday women from the colonia join with women from CFCI to cook lunch for the children which is later bagged by Patria youth and our youth workers who also make the juice and set up, serve and clean up the meal. Young couples from our church help with the youth group and Flavio de Jesús de Escareño Ramirez leads the singles group, as well co-teaching [with Heather Pancake] the oldest group in the Kids Club program and overseeing all the computer needs and opportunities for the team and colonia. David Rodríguez, father of four, teaches seven and eight year olds with Meredith Omland each Wednesday and is the Music Minister for *Iglesia del Gran Pastor*. This talented man can play multiple instruments and currently helps teach music classes for the church. María Concepción "Concha" Castro de Griffin, beloved wife of David, has faithfully helped teach "tots" for years, as well as leading a small group of young girls, opening her home to friend and stranger and blessing us with some of the best of Mexican cooking. This list only begins to tell you of the wonderful friendships and able assistance of those with whom we live and worship.



Toño plays drums for church worship.

Prayer Requests and Updates:

❖ We are still working to finish the paperwork for the missionary visas and the transfer of property into the Religious Association. It seems that almost daily we discover a new paper or document that we need to submit or that our documents have inexplicably gone "lost." Much time, energy and money has been lost to this paper chase. Please pray that we can finish it all very quickly and with a minimum of effort from the missionaries.

❖ It is time for us to recruit new workers. We specifically pray for more men, especially ones who love children and for a greater core of long-term workers to be established. Both the nationals we serve and our current mix of programs are better supported when there is continuity of relationships.

❖ The Lord to raise up another pastor so that we can plant another church in Fresnillo.

Encourage Your Favorite Missionary

(or the whole team)

Send a letter to:

**Missionary name
(or CFCI Team)
Apdo. 470
Fresnillo, Zacatecas 99000
MEXICO**

Phone/FAX—001-52-493-2-84-53
Email: cfciprodigy.net.mx

